



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

# Ms. Coll. #169

## Richard J. Ross Papers, 2005-2018: Guide

### COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Creator:** Ross, Richard J. (Richard John), 1954-

**Call Number:** Ms. Coll. #169

**Extent:** 7.5 boxes (3 linear feet)

**Preferred Citation Style:** *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Richard J. Ross Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

**Provenance:** Gift of Richard J. Ross, December 2018.

**About This Finding Aid:** Description based on DACS.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Deanna Parsi, December 2019.

**Abstract:** This collection documents Richard J. Ross's years in the Massachusetts House (2005-2010) and Senate (2010-2018).

### SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents Richard J. Ross's (RJR) years in the Massachusetts House (2005-2010) and Senate (2010-2018). The collection reflects RJR's role as a state legislator as seen by his constituents and the press. Records include correspondence, thank you notes, press releases, news clippings and general subject files. The collection does not contain legislative records.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Richard John Ross (RJR) was born July 6, 1954. He grew up in Wrentham, Massachusetts, where his family owns R. J. Ross Funeral Home. He attended American University School of Government and New England Institute of Anatomy. Prior to entering into state government, RJR held local community positions with the Wrentham Historical Commission (1971-2003), the Wrentham Conservation Commission (1977-1978), the Wrentham Refuse Disposal Commission (1977-1978), the Wrentham Board of Health (1979-1982), and the Wrentham Board of Selectmen (1999-2003).

Ross, a Republican, was a Massachusetts State Representative (2005-2010) and then a State Senator (2010-2018). As a long-time resident of and business owner in Wrentham, RJR felt very connected to the constituents in his district. He represented the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, which includes the towns (in whole or in part) of Franklin, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Wellesley, Wrentham, Attleboro, North Attleborough, Natick, Sherborn, and Wayland.

As a State Representative, RJR served on the House Personnel and Administration Committee, the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, the Joint Committee on Education, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the Joint Committee on Revenue.

As a State Senator, RJR served on the Senate Committee on Ethics, Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Higher Education, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the Joint Committee on Public Health, the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. He also served on the Special Senate Committee on Opioid Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Options and the Special Senate Committee to Improve Government.

During his terms in both the House and Senate, RJR focused on issues that were important to him and his constituents, such as education, health care, and gaming/casinos. He also became a proponent for LGBTQ rights. RJR was defeated in the 2018 general elections by Democratic challenger Becca Rausch.

# **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

## ***Arrangement***

The collection is arranged in three series, which are further arranged in sub-series as follows:

Series I: Correspondence, 2005-2018

Sub-Series A: Outgoing Correspondence, 2010-2018

Sub-Series B: Incoming Correspondence, 2005-2018

Sub-Series C: Thank You Notes, 2005-2018

Sub-Series D: Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence, 2007

Series II: Press, 2005-2016

Sub-Series A: Press (House), 2005-2008

Sub-Series B: Press (Senate), January 2010 – February 2012

Sub-Series C: Multimedia, 2005-2016

Series III: Subject Files, 2005-2018

Sub-Series A: Interns, 2005-2016 - Restricted Access

Sub-Series B: Resources for Constituents, 2013-2016

Sub-Series C: Miscellaneous Papers, 2011-2018

## ***Conditions Governing Access***

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours, with the following restrictions: Series III, Sub-Series A is closed to patron use until 2041. Please see the Special Collections Department staff for more information.

## ***Technical Access***

This collection includes DVD's that need to be viewed on a computer. The Special Collections Department staff will assist patrons in accessing this material.

## ***Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use***

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

## ***Languages and Scripts***

The materials in this collection are entirely in English.

## ***Immediate Source of Acquisition***

Gift of Richard J. Ross, December 2018.

## ***Detailed Series Description and Container List***

### **Series I: Correspondence, 2005-2018**

#### ***Series I Subseries A: Outgoing Correspondence, 2010-2018***

##### ***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains copies of RJR's outgoing correspondence produced during his time as a State Senator (2010-2018). The correspondence documents his legislative interests, issues of concern within his district, and relationships with his staff, constituents, and fellow legislators.

##### ***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in four large binders and were arranged chronologically. Original order was maintained during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#1	#1	Outgoing Correspondence, August-December 2010	2010
#1	#2	Outgoing Correspondence, January-March 2011	2011
#1	#3	Outgoing Correspondence, April-August 2011	2011
#1	#4	Outgoing Correspondence, September-December 2011	2011
#1	#5	Outgoing Correspondence, January-December 2012	2012
#1	#6	Outgoing Correspondence, January-June 2013	2013
#1	#7	Outgoing Correspondence, July-December 2013	2013
#1	#8	Outgoing Correspondence, January-June 2014	2014
#1	#9	Outgoing Correspondence, July-December 2014	2014
#1	#10	Outgoing Correspondence, January-May, 2015	2015
#2	#1	Outgoing Correspondence, June-December 2015	2015
#2	#2	Outgoing Correspondence, January-June 2016	2016
#2	#3	Outgoing Correspondence, July-December 2016	2016

#2	#4	Outgoing Correspondence, January-June 2017	2017
#2	#5	Outgoing Correspondence, July-December 2017	2017
#2	#6	Outgoing Correspondence, January-October 2018	2018

***Series I Subseries B: Incoming Correspondence, 2005-2018***

***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains copies of RJR's incoming correspondence received during the latter part of his time as a State Senator (2010-2018). Most letters include a copy of his reply. The correspondence documents his legislative interests, issues of concern within his district, and relationships with his staff, constituents, and fellow legislators.

***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in one large binder and were arranged by topic. Original order was maintained during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#2	#7	Incoming Correspondence, Education	2015-2016
#2	#8	Incoming Correspondence, Justice	2015-2016
#2	#9	Incoming Correspondence, Health	2015-2016
#2	#10	Incoming Correspondence, Tourism	2015
#2	#11	Incoming Correspondence, Homelessness	2015-2016
#2	#12	Incoming Correspondence, DDS/Mental Health	2015-2016
#2	#13	Incoming Correspondence, Animals	2015-2016
#2	#14	Incoming Correspondence, Energy	2014-2016
#2	#15	Incoming Correspondence, Transportation	2015
#2	#16	Incoming Correspondence, Businesses	2015-2016
#3	#1	Incoming Correspondence, Seniors	2015

#3	#2	Incoming Correspondence, State Worker Issues	2015
#3	#3	Incoming Correspondence, Admin. Of Gov't.	2015
#3	#4	Incoming Correspondence, Other State/Federal	2015-2016
#3	#5	Incoming Correspondence, Other	2015-2018

***Series I Subseries C: Thank You Notes, 2005-2018***

***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains thank you notes received during RJR's time in the House (2005-2010) and Senate (2010-2018). The correspondence documents his role as a legislator, with notes that thank him for legislative support, events and meetings he attended, and his work with students. There are also notes of a more personal nature, including birthday greeting and get-well wishes.

***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in three large binders. Thank you notes from 2005-2013 were arranged chronologically. Thank you notes from 2014-2018 were arranged by topic. Original order was maintained during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#3	#6	Thank You Notes, 2005-2006	2005-2006
#3	#7	Thank You Notes, 2007	2007
#3	#8	Thank You Notes, 2010-2011	2010-2011
#3	#9	Thank You Notes, 2012-2013	2012-2013
#3	#10	Thank You Notes, Undated	Undated
#3	#11	Thank You Notes, Legislative Meeting/Support -Groups	2014-2015
#3	#12	Thank You Notes, Legislative Meeting/Support- Individual	2014-2015
#3	#13	Thank You Notes, Tours & Visits	2014-2015
#3	#14	Thank You Notes, Letters/Ref/Citation	2014-2015
#3	#15	Thank You Notes, Events/Meetings Attended	2014-2015

#4	#1	Thank You Notes, Reading to Students	2014-2015
#4	#2	Thank You Notes, Congrats (Re-Election)	2014-2015
#4	#3	Thank You Notes, In-Building (Staff/Interns)	2014-2015
#4	#4	Thank You Notes, Personal	2014-2015
#4	#5	Thank You Notes, Miscellaneous	2014-2015
#4	#6	Thank You Notes, Legislation Meeting/Support, 1 of 2	2015-2018
#4	#7	Thank You Notes, Legislation Meeting/Support, 2 of 2	2015-2018
#4	#8	Thank You Notes, Tours & Visits	2015-2018
#4	#9	Thank You Notes, Letters/Ref/Citation	2015-2018
#4	#10	Thank You Notes, Events/Meetings Attended	2015-2018
#4	#11	Thank You Notes, Constituent Services	2015-2018
#4	#12	Thank You Notes, Reading to Students	2015-2018
#4	#13	Thank You Notes, Internal	2015-2018
#4	#14	Thank You Notes, Personal	2015-2018
#4	#15	Thank You Notes, Miscellaneous	2015-2018

### ***Series I Subseries D: Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence, 2007***

#### ***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains correspondence received by RJR during his time as a State Representative following a vote on same-sex marriage. On June 14, 2007, members of the Massachusetts House and Senate voted to reject a constitutional amendment that would have defined marriage in Massachusetts as only a union between a man and a woman. RJR originally voted for the amendment, but was one of the legislators that changed his vote to ultimately reject it. The correspondence documents the reaction of his constituents and fellow legislators immediately following his controversial vote.

#### ***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in one large binder. Original order was maintained during processing.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
#4	#16	Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence, 1 of 3	2007
#4	#17	Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence, 2 of 3	2007
#5	#1	Same-Sex Marriage Correspondence, 3 of 3	2007

## **Series II: *Press, 2005-2016***

### ***Series II Subseries A: Press (House), 2005-2008***

#### ***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains copies of newspaper articles and press clippings relating to RJR's time as a State Representative. The materials document his legislative interests, issues of concern within his district, and his role as a legislator within his community.

#### ***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in two large binders and were arranged by topic. Original order was maintained during processing.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
#5	#2	Press, Education	2005-2006
#5	#3	Press, Elderly	2005-2006
#5	#4	Press, Veterans	2005-2006
#5	#5	Press, Personal	2005-2006
#5	#6	Press, Sightings	2005-2006
#5	#7	Press, Revenue	2005-2006
#5	#8	Press, Mental Health/Substance Abuse	2005-2006
#5	#9	Press, Health Care	2005-2006
#5	#10	Press, Misc. Legislation	2005-2006
#5	#11	Press, Straight Politics	2005-2006
#5	#12	Press, Beacon Hill Roll Call	2005-2006



#5	#13	Press, Medfield	2005-2006
#5	#14	Press, Millis	2005-2006
#5	#15	Press, Norfolk	2005-2006
#5	#16	Press, Plainville	2005-2006
#5	#17	Press, Walpole	2005-2006
#5	#18	Press, Wrentham	2005-2006
#5	#19	Press, Multi-Town	2005-2006
#5	#20	Press, Miscellaneous	2005-2006
#5	#21	Press, Education	2007-2008
#5	#22	Press, Elderly	2007-2008
#5	#23	Press, Personal	2007-2008
#5	#24	Press, Sightings	2007-2008
#5	#25	Press, Revenue	2007-2008
#5	#26	Press, Health Care	2007-2008
#5	#27	Press, Misc. Legislation	2007-2008
#5	#28	Press, Straight Politics	2007-2008
#5	#29	Press, Multi-Town	2007-2008
#5	#30	Press, Wrentham	2007-2008
#5	#31	Press, Norfolk	2007-2008
#5	#32	Press, Plainville	2007-2008
#6	#1	Press, Medfield	2007-2008
#6	#2	Press, Walpole	2007-2008
#6	#3	Press, Miscellaneous	2007-2008

***Series II Subseries B: Press (Senate), January 2010-February 2012***

***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains copies of press releases, newspaper articles and press clippings relating to the early part of RJR's time as a State Senator. The materials document his legislative interests, issues of concern within his district, and his role as a legislator within his community. One section of materials focuses on his Senate campaign, a mid-term election to replace Senator Scott Brown's vacant seat.

***Arrangement***

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in three large binders and were arranged chronologically. Original order was maintained during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#6	#4	Press, January-December 2010	2010
#6	#5	Press, State Senate Campaign, January-May 2010	2010
#6	#6	Press, January-November 2011	2011
#6	#7	Press, Press Releases, June 2010 – May 2011	2010-2011
#6	#8	Press, June-December 2010	2010
#6	#9	Press, January-May 2011	2011
#6	#10	Press, June-September 2011	2011
#6	#11	Press, September-October 2011	2011
#6	#12	Press, November-December 2011	2011
#7	#1	Press, January-February 2012	2012

***Series II Subseries C: Multimedia, 2005-2018***

***Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains ten DVD's. Three contain photographs from RJR's swearing in (2005), a campaign fundraiser (2010) and the Massachusetts GOP Convention (2010). The remaining DVD's contain episodes of Beacon Hill Review (2011) and Inside State Government (2014-2016), both produced by North Attleborough Community Television, which feature RJR.

**Arrangement**

The DVD's are filed with their original packaging.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
#7	#2	Press, Multimedia	2005-2016

**Series III: *Subject Files, 2005-2018******Series III Subseries A: Interns, 2005-2016 [Restricted]******Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains records relating to interns who worked in RJR's office during his time in the House (2005-210) and Senate (2010-2018). Materials include applications, project lists, thank you notes to RJR and staff, and copies of letters of recommendation written by RJR. This series is closed to patron use until 2041. Please see the Special Collections Department staff for more information.

**Arrangement**

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in two large binders and were arranged chronologically. Original order was maintained during processing.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
#8	#1	Subject Files, Interns [Restricted]	2005-2008
#8	#2	Subject Files, Interns [Restricted]	2010-2012
#8	#3	Subject Files, Interns [Restricted]	2012-2014
#8	#4	Subject Files, Interns [Restricted]	2015-2016

***Series III Subseries B: Resources for Constituents, 2013-2016******Scope and Content***

This sub-series contains resources for constituents, as compiled by RJR and his staff. The materials document RJR's role as legislator in helping his constituents. They include both community and state resources for programs relating to houses, legal aid, jobs, veteran services, education, health and more.

**Arrangement**

The materials within this sub-series were originally housed in one large binder and were arranged by topic. Original order was maintained during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#7	#3	Subject Files, Resources – Overview	2013-2016
#7	#4	Subject Files, Resources – Housing	2013-2016
#7	#5	Subject Files, Resources – Dept. of Revenue	2013-2016
#7	#6	Subject Files, Resources – Legal Info	2013-2016
#7	#7	Subject Files, Resources – Jobs	2013-2016
#7	#8	Subject Files, Resources – Energy Assistance	2013-2016
#7	#9	Subject Files, Resources – Veterans	2013-2016
#7	#10	Subject Files, Resources – Seniors	2013-2016
#7	#11	Subject Files, Resources – Education	2013-2016
#7	#12	Subject Files, Resources – Mental Health	2013-2016
#7	#13	Subject Files, Resources – MassHealth	2013-2016
#7	#14	Subject Files, Resources – Transportation	2013-2016
#7	#15	Subject Files, Resources – Miscellaneous	2013-2016

**Series III Subseries C: Miscellaneous Papers, 2011-2018****Scope and Content**

This sub-series contains miscellaneous subject files from RJR's time as State Senator. They include a RJR newsletter, copies of resignation letters from his staff, a copy of his own resignation letter from the Sturdy Foundation, and statements of financial interest for the state ethics commission.

**Arrangement**

The materials within this sub-series were consolidated into two folders during processing.

<b>Box #</b>	<b>Folder #</b>	<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
#7	#16	Subject Files, Miscellaneous – RJR Ethics	2012-2016
#7	#17	Subject Files, Miscellaneous – Papers	2011-2018